RAJYA SABHA

Thursday, the 29 *August,* 1991/7 *'hadra,* 1913 *(Saka)*

The House met at eleven of the clock, r. Chairman in the Chair.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Poor orders for Public Sector Undertakings

*61. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item which appeared in the Hindustan Times, New Delhi dated the 7th August, 1991 captioned "concern at poor orders for Public Sector Under takings" to the effect that the Indus try Ministry is concerned about the shrinking order book position of the Public Sector Undertakings; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and the action taken by Gov ernment thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI P. K. THUNGON): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A few public sector enterprises, mainly in the engineering sector, have reported low order book position. Steps to improve the order -book position include strengthening of linkages with the user sectors, diversification into new product areas and intensification of export efforts.

श्री प्रमोद महाजन : सभापति जी, दूसरे सदन में प्रधान मंत्री जी द्वारा सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र की आवश्यकता और उसकी प्रशंसा की पृष्ठभूमि में सरकार द्वारा इस प्रश्न का उत्तर बहुत ही साधारण ढंग से और काम-चलाऊ रूप में आया है, इस पर मुझे है । महोदय, यह सच नही है कि कम क्यादेश की सूचना कुछ उपक्रमों में से आई है । अब "कुछ" का अर्थ कुछ भी हो सकता है , एक से ज्यादा भी हो सकता है और उसको आंकड़ों में बाधा नहीं जा सकता है ।

महोदय, 33 ऐसी कंपनियां हैं जिनके पास 1 अप्रैल, 1991 को 11,505 करोड़ रुपए का क्यादेश था, जो लगभग इन कंपनियों के वार्षिक उत्पादन के बराबर है । अगर आने वाले दो-तीन वर्षों का क्यादेश इन 33 कंपनियों के वार्षिक उत्पादन के बराबर हो तो मुझे लगता है कि सरकार कामचलाऊ रूप में दो-तीन छोटे सुझाव देकर रास्ता निकाल नहीं सकती ।

इसलिए मैं यह पूछना चाहूंगा कि जो सार्वजनिक उपक्रम ठीक तरह से स्वयं को नहीं चला पा रहे हैं, क्या सरकार घाटे में आने वाले ऐसे सार्वजनिक उपक्रमों को निजी क्षेत्र में दे देने का विचार करेगी ।

SHRI P. K. THUNGON: Before I answer the question, I would like to congratulate the hon. Member for putting the question from out of the newspaper report. His question emanates from the newspaper report. The hon. Member is aware of the order-book position. There are 40 public sector undertakings under the Ministry of Heavy Industries and 244 or so under all Ministries or Departments I would particularly like to mention about the BHEL, the Hindustan Cables etc. which are under my Ministry. They have been suffering for lack of orders.

The reason which the hon. Member is aware of is due to overall increase in the prices. That is one part. The second part which we have noticed is due to bilateral and multilateral agreements where certain invest-ments are made from abroad, in those agreements certain conditions are put forward where certain orders are required to be taken from abroad. These are the reasons why...

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Jusl now you were telling that you are getting more orders.

SHRI P. K. THUNGON: What I am trying to explain is that giving the example of BHEL, HCL, etc.

MR. CHAIRMAN: His main question is: Will you consider privatisation?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO): Wherever the public sector is showing signs of weakness, going into losses, it does not automatically mean that it is transferred to the private sector. That is not a correct formulation and I cannot make a statement like that. We will have to go into the details. The overall plan targets als$_0$ are not being maintained and that is one of the main reasons why these orders are coming down. So we will have to go into multifarious reasons.

श्री प्रमोद महाजन : सभापति जी, यह समाचार पत्र नहीं है । भारी उद्योग की ओर से जो वार्षिक रिपोर्ट आई है उसमें दिया गया है कि उनके पास जो 49 कंपनियां हैं उनमें से 33 कंपनियों की यह हालत है जबकि भेल आप चलाते हैं । उसी प्रकार निजी क्षेत्र में भी इंजीनियरिंग कंपनियां चलती हैं वह भेल की तरह नहीं चलती, सही चलती हैं तो इस पर सरकार को विचार करना पड़ेगा।

मेरा दूसरा प्रश्न यह है कि भेल की निर्मिति क्षमता 5 वर्ष में 30 हजार मैगावाट है । अगर उसे ठीक से चलाएंगे तो उसके लिए 80 प्रतिशत क्षमता का उपयोग करना चाहिए और आने वाले वर्षों में भेल के पास जो क्यादेश है वह 41 प्रतिशत अगले साल के लिए, फिर 36 प्रतिशत और उसके बाद आने वाले वर्षों के लिए केवल 12 प्रतिशत है । अगर इस प्रकार भेल के क्यादेश की स्थिति होगी जब कि 80 प्रतिशत उपयोगिता है तो मैं पूछना चाहता हूं कि ढेर सारी सरकारों, राज्य सरकारों और केन्द्र सरकार के उद्योग भी और उपक्रम भी भेल को अपना क्यादेश नहीं देना चाहते हैं, भेल को काम नहीं देना चाहता हैं तो इस स्थिति में क्या सरकार कोई विशेष उपाय या योजना इसको ठीक ढंग से चलाने के लिए बना रही है ?

SHRI P. K. THUNGON: Sir, we are taking up the matter with various concerned Ministries and other agencies and also with the consumers so that more orders are placed with BHEL. It is not a fact that BHEL is performing very badly. So far it has been doing quite well. But as I have already stated...

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: If 40 per cent utilisation is satisfactory, may God help BHEL.

SHRI P. K. THUNGON: I am talking about the order-book. The hon. Member himself has stated that the order-book is gradually coming down; and it is a fact which I thave already answered. The capacity of BHEL is 30,000 megawatts within a span of five years. According to the records available with me in the Sixth Plan, 89 per cent of the total requirement of the country was supplied by the BHEL. In the Seventh Plan, it came down to 76.4 per cent and in the Eighth Plan, it is likely to come down to 41 per cent only, I have already stated the reasons, *i* do not have to repeat those reasons. We are trying our best to get in touch with those State Government undertakings like the State Electricity Boards and Energy and other Ministries who use these products.

श्री प्रमोद महाजन : मुझे खेद है कि मुझे अपने प्रश्न का उत्तर नहीं मिला । मैं यह कह रहा था
You are not giving orders to your-
solves. इसका आप क्या कर रहे हैं ? इसके आप जवाब क्यों नहीं दे रहे हैं ?
You are not giving orders to yourselves.

आप अपने घर में खाना नहीं पका रहे हैं और दूसरों को भी पकाने नहीं दे रहे हैं। ऐसे नहीं चलेगा । कोई रास्ता निकालिए या तो खुद चलाइये और नहीं तो दूसरों को चलाने दीजिए ।

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO: Yes, it is a very good suggestion, Sir. If our own State Governments are not placing orders,.. (Interruption) .. .if the NTFC is not placing orders, we will certainly go into that. If we do not place orders, we cannot expect others to place orders. But I may add that the BHEL has been doing rather well outside the country. Ex. ports are also picking up so far as the BHEL is concerned. So, there is really nothing basically wrong about it. Maybe there are other aspects. We will look into them.

SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: Sir, the same is the case with the IDPL. The State Governments are buying a lot of drugs. But they are not placing orders with the IDPL.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: I agree with my colleague Mr. Pramod Maha-jan that the Government has answered this question in a very casual fashion. But I do not agree with the latter part of his suggestion that if there is a lack of orders, then, necessarily, privatisation is the solution. It is like giving the dog a bad name and then hanging it. But the point is that there is a plethora of instructions existing in the Government in regard to orders on public sector undertakings including one which relates to price preference. The Industrial Policy statement of the Government does not talk of this as a problem of the public sector at all. I have got a copy of the statement. I do not find this there. That is why I am surprised that even in the answer to this question, it has been treated casually. In the light of the order book position which is unsatisfactory, I would like to know whether the Government of India, not only in respect of the public sector undertakings of the Heavy Industries Ministry but in respect of all public sector undertakings of the Government of India, will take up a unit-by.unit study to find out where the lacunae are and whether this unit-by-unit study will then lead to a better order book position, as it was said, ordering ourselves on ourselves. I would also like to know by when they would expect to complete this unit-by.unit examination.

SHRI P. K. THUNGON: Sir, the hon. Member will be glad to know that I have started review meetings on each and every unit. Public sector undertakings under heavy industries.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You are already acting on it

SHRI P. K. THUNGON: We will keep in mind the suggestion put forward by the hon. Member and we are making efforts.

SHRI M. PALANTYANDI: Sir, the Minister has told us about the BHEL. I know something about the BHEL. I am coming from Tiruchirappalli. Even though public sector undertakings like the BHEL are competing well with foreign manufacturers in terms of all conditions, they are not getting orders because of the so-called international commitments. I would like to know whether the Government would come forward to save these public sector undertakings from retrenchment and also closure.

SHRI P. K. THUNGON: Sir, so far as the Government is concerned, we are not in favour of closure of any of our public sector undertakings. As regards taking care of the interests of workers, in the New Industrial Policy, we have provisions and according to those provisions, we will certainly take care of them.

श्रीमती सरला माहेश्वरी: माननीय सभापति महोदय, माननीय मंत्री जी ने कहा है कि उनका इरादा सार्वजनिक उद्योगों को बंद करने का नहीं है । मैं भेल के संबंध में यह जानकारी चाहती हूं कि भेल जैसा उद्योग जिसमें 75 हजार कर्मचारी काम करते हैं उस उद्योग की आज हालत यह है कि मेरे पास जो तथ्य हैं उनके अनुसार 1992–93 के लिए भेल के पास जीरो आर्डर हैं, यह स्थिति क्यों आई है ? मैं समझती हूं कि ऋण आदेशों में कमी की यह स्थिति सरकार की नीति के कारण है, खुली प्रतिद्वंद्विता की नीति है और जैसा कि माननीय मंत्री जी ने कबूल किया है कि वे द्विपक्षीय और तृपक्षीय समझौते कर रहे हैं । उसी के चलते आज भेल जैसे उद्योग और अन्य तमाम सार्वजनिक उद्योगों की यह स्थिति हो गई है और इस मुकाम पर आ गये हैं क्योंकि विदेशी कम्पनियों के पास विशाल पूंजी होती है, उनके पास इतनी क्षमता होती है कि वे हमारे यहां के मार्केट का इस्तेमाल कर सकें । वे ऋण दे रहे हैं, किस्तों पर उपकरण दे रहे हैं, उधार दे रहे हैं । हमारे यहां के उद्योगों की यह क्षमता नहीं है । ऐसी स्थिति में मैं यह जानना चाहती हूं कि इसके कारण विदेशी कम्पनियों को भारत में किस तादाद में आने का मौका मिला है और कितनी विदेशी कम्पनियों ने विद्युत उपकरणों के मामले में आर्डर लिये हैं और भेल की इस संबंध में क्या स्थिति है ? मैं यह कहना चाहती हूं कि सरकार जिस रास्ते पर चल रही है वह रास्ता भेल के बंद होने का रास्ता है और तमाम सार्वजनिक उपक्रमों के बंद होने का रास्ता है' उसको बचाने के लिए सरकार क्या कर रही है ? निजीकरण के लिए जब बहुत से दबाव काम कर रहे हैं तो इस संदर्भ में सरकार अपनी नीति बदलने के लिए क्या कर रही है ?

SHRI P. K. THUNGON: Sir, as regards projection of the Eighth Five Year Plan in respect of the BHEL, it is a kind of projection... *(Interruption)*,

MR. CHAIRMAN: Is the Eighth Plan complete? Has it been formulated?

SHRI P. K. THUNGON: Not yet, Sir. Therefore, we have an apprehension that it may diminish in that way. Therefore, we are taking rigorous steps within the country and outside also for export purposes and we will certainly see that this public sector undertaking of ours instead of diminishing further improves. Our approach is to improve it so that the workers do not suffer.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You improve it.

श्री हरवेन्द्र सिंह हंसपाल : 1992–93 के लिए बी.एच.ई.एल. के पास जीरो आर्डर्स हैं, उस बारे में मंत्री जी का क्या कहना है ?

श्री सभापति : इस बारे में पहले ही बोल चुके हैं ।

You have already told it. It is more than zero.

SHRI P. K. THUNGON: I have already mentioned it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Kindly read it again.

SHRI P. K. THUNGON: In 1990-91, Thermal was 70 per cent and Hydro was 32 per cent. In 1991-92, Thermal is 40 per cent and Hydro is 58 per cent. In 1992-93, Theremal is 33 per cent and Hydro is 18 per cent. (In-terruptions).

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is already there. It is not zero. It is more than zero. (Interruptions).

SHRI P. K. THUNGON: In 1993-94, Thermal is 24 per cent and in 1994-95, Thermal is 6 per cent. This is the projection.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shrimati Satya Bahin,

श्रीमती सरला बहिन : सभापति महोदय, मैं यह कहना चाहती हूं कि देश में बहुत-सी ऐसी विदेशी ट्रेडिंग कम्पनियां हैं या यों कहिये कि मल्टी नेशनल विदेशी कम्पनियां हैं उनको देश में हमारे सरकारी उपक्रमों की उपेक्षा करके क्रय आदेश दिये जाते हैं । ये जो विदेशी ट्रेडिंग कम्पनियां हैं ये केवल ट्रेडिंग का काम करती हैं, कोई निर्माता का काम नहीं करती हैं । ऐसी स्थिति में हमारी सरकार बाहरी कम्पनियों से, जो निर्माता कम्पनियां हैं, उनसे डायरेक्ट सम्पर्क क्यों नहीं करती हैं ? क्यों ये मध्यस्थ बीच में आते हैं ? अगर आप इजाजत दें तो मैं नाम लेना चाहूंगी । जापान की एक मित्सुबिषी कारपोरेशन है जो ट्रेडिंग कम्पनी है और इस तरह के इललीगल बिजनेस में लगी हुई है । क्या कभी माननीय मंत्री जी ने और सरकार ने इस तरह की विदेशी ट्रेडिंग कम्पनियों की तरफ ध्यान दिया है जिनका संबंध ज्यादातर सरकारी उपक्रमों से ही होता है और हमारे हिन्दुस्तान के जो प्रोजक्टस होते हैं उनकी अग्रिम जानकारी उनको हो जाती है और जिनके बारे में वे नेगोसिएशन पहले से शुरू कर देते हैं ? क्या आपको इस बात की जानकारी है और अगर है तो आप इस बारे में क्या करने जा रहे हैं?

श्री सभापति : आप जानकारी दे दीजिये, वे उसको देख लेंगे।

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Sir, i am really glad that the Prime Minister has said that he would look into it, but the problem is most of the public sector units in the country are starving because of lack of orders for quite a long period of time. It is not a new problem and whenever we ask the Government about this, the same answer is given by the Prime Minister whoever is there...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please put your question.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: My question is this. Now the crisis in our public sector arising out of lack of orders has reached a point if no drastic change in the policy of the Government takes place, where things will not improve. Despite the declaration of the Government, units are being closed down. I can furnish information straightway. The Heavy Engineering Unit -set up in Durgapur for Producing machinery for collieries is on the verge of closure because Coal India never placed orders with them. Second: Sir, we had been to Bombay. The Shipping Corporation told us that they had placed orders for construction of ships with the shipyard and the shipyard could not give them because they complained that the requisite quality of steel had not been suppled by SAIL. There is a total lack of coordination between the different departments of Government and these institutions and deliberately the orders...

ME. CHAIRMAN: Is this your question: Will they see to it that the requisite quality of steel is supplied to the Shipping Corporation?

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: No, no; Sir, I am giving very useful information.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Come to your question. Twenty-one minutes are gone.

AN HON. MEMBER: Sir, we are getting more light from him than from the Government.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Sir, the point is...

MR. CHAIRMAN: You put your question.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: I would like to know from the Prime Minister whether he will assure the House that some drastic change in this regard will take place and within a time-frame, it is not a pious declaration...

MR. CHAIRMAN: What is your question?

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: I would like the Government to assure the House of a drastic change and time-frame. How long will the Government take to change the situ ation? ___ *{Interruptions)* ...

SHRI P. K THUNGON: Whether it is a self-made...

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO: There are two words: drastic and time-frame,... *(Interruptions)* ...

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: I have never used two words. It is drastic time-frame...

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO: What is it which is expected of me? Words will not do. The point is you will have to go into the details of each of these units,...

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: How long? Please assure us how much time it will take.

SHRI P, V. NARASIMHA RAO: As long as it is needed. You have already said that it has been going on for a long time...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hear him.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Mr. Prime Minister, how long will it take? The situationbrooks no delay. Please assure us how long...

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO: That is what I am saying, Sir. For these matters there can be no advance time-limit to be fixed. It all depends on what happened in a particular unit. Can be really bring it round, turn it round? Is it a case where it cannot be turned round?

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: You are hinting the units will be closed down...

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO: No, I would not guarantee anything about closing down or not closing down. The only thing is our effort will be that the public sector will not be closed down as far as possible, but if the public sector also does turn so sick,...

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: I want action. That is all philosophy, Mr. Prime Minister.

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO: All right. We will try our best not to close down the public sector; to turn it round as far as possible we will do our utmost.

Desalination plants in Andhra Pradesh

*62. DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of desalination plants which have been installed in Andhra Pradesh for providing drinking water;

(b) the places where they are located; and

(c) the number of those which are in working condition?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI UTTAMBHAI H. PATEL): (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

In desalination plants have been providing drinking water in the installed, in Andhra Pradesh for following villages: —

S.No.	Name of District	Name of the village
1	2	3
1	West Godavari	Dibbalappallipalem
2	West Godavari	Moci
3	West Godavari	Chintarevu.